morants destroy salmon, nor did stomach examinations. Of 32 stomachs examined, 5 were empty, 3 contained unrecognizable food, 16 contained sculpins, 5 herrings, one capelin, one eel, and 2 tomcod or allied fishes.

Furthermore, the bulk of evidence shows that salmon have lately been increasing from year to year. "The cormorants are also generally increasing in number, the rookeries are enlarging and new ones being established. These facts taken together do not indicate that the cormorants are markedly harmful to the salmon." *—W. L. M.

* Mus. Bul. 13, Canada Dept. of Mines, 1915, p. 14.

INCUBATION PERIOD OF THE GANNET.

In the very interesting list of periods of incubation, as noted in different birds, contributed to your pages by Mr. F. L. Burns, the period allowed for the Gannet (*Sula bassana* (L)) is given at 39 days, but this seems too short.

An egg laid on April 22d at the Bass Rock on the east coast of Scotland, and at once inscribed with the date by Mr. J. M. Campbell, the lighthouse keeper, was not hatched until June 5th, which gives a period of 44 days.

Another Gannet's egg, laid in confinement at Brighton in Sussex, is recorded by the late Mr. E. T. Booth to have hatched out about the 43d day, as stated in "The Gannet" (p. 355), where the *pros* and *cons* of the subject are discussed at some length and different opinions quoted.

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A NEW LOUISIANA BIRD.

The observance of a solitary species of bird life has not only supplied the Louisiana list with a new bird but with the one order of the seventeen found in the United States that has been missing since the avian life of the state has been studied by those who preceded Audubon and those who have followed him.

The species observed was a Wilson petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), sometimes known as one of "Mother Cary's Chickens," of the order *Tubinares*, or Tube-nosed swimmers, which includes, besides the petrels, the fulmars and shearwaters.

The discovery was made by Herbert K. Job, head of the Department of Applied Ornithology of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and Stanley Clisby Arthur, ornithologist of the Conservation Commission of Louisiana, while they were on an expe-

dition to the breeding islands along the Louisiana coast west of the Mississippi river, June 23d, 1915.

The petrel, when observed, was about a mile off shore, paddling the rough waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and about seven miles west of Grand Isle. The stranger to the Pelican State circled the commission's petrol boat "Opelousas" but, although efforts were made by throwing lard on the waters to entice it close enough to be photographed, it finally flew out of sight, however not before the ornithologists had thoroughly studied it through binoculars for over a quarter of an hour.

Although both Mr. Job and Mr. Arthur kept a close watch for other specimens during the remaining five days of their trip no other petrel were sighted, and the specimen they did see was absolutely alone.

NEW DUCK SPECIES BREEDING IN LOUISIANA.

Since the establishment of the vast game and waterfowl preserves in Louisiana along the Gulf of Mexico, particularly the State Game Preserve and Marsh Island, it has been observed that there has been a marked increase in the species of waterfowl and shore birds that seek these marshes for breeding purposes.

According to a late report made by Stanley Clisby Arthur, ornithologist of the Conservation Commission of Louisiana, to his superior, President M. L. Alexander, four species of wild duck that go to the northern tier of states for the rearing of their young have remained on the protected areas of the southern state to perform that function.

The Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*); the Florida duck (*Anas fulvigula*), and in few numbers the Blue-winged teal (*Querquedula discors*) have, until the spring of 1915, constituted the Louisiana list of *Anseres* breeding within that state's borders. Observation and investigation by Mr. Arthur of the breeding birds this spring, which has only partially been completed, show that the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*); the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*); and the Bald-pate (*Marcea americana*) nested in few numbers on Marsh Island. The conservation agent there noted that the height of the breeding season was from April 1st to May 15th. Nesting was observed as early as March 20th, however.

On June 17th the commander of the Conservation Commission's patrol boat "Louisiana" observed a flock of 28 Lesser Scaup (*Marila affinis*) ducklings swimming in the waters of Lake Borgne. The little waterbirds were with the adult parents and a castnet was used in an endeavor to capture some of them to make sure of identification. According to Captain Sandras' report the ducklings were